#### <u>Trend Study 2-32-01</u>

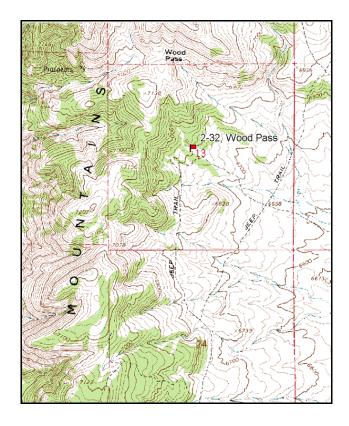
Study site name: Wood Pass. Vegetation type: Juniper.

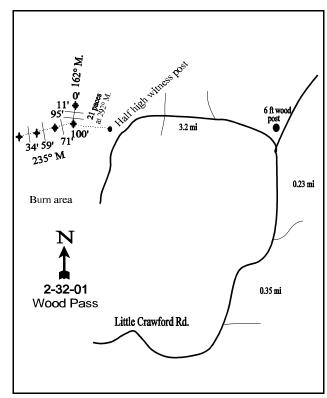
Compass bearing: frequency baseline 165 degrees magnetic.

Frequency belt placement: line 1 (11 & 95ft), line 2 (71ft), line 3 (59ft), line 4 (34ft).

#### LOCATION DESCRIPTION

From the intersection of Wilson Lane and Little Crawford Road east of Woodruff proceed northeast for 1.35 miles to a fork. Turn left and travel 0.35 mile to another fork. Turn left and proceed 2.6 miles to a third fork marked by a six-foot tall wooden post. Turn left and proceed 3.2 miles staying on the main road, to a witness post just off the right side of road. From the witness post walk 21 paces at 292 degrees magnetic to the 100-foot baseline stake. Walk 100 feet at 342 degrees magnetic from the 100-foot stake to the 0-foot baseline stake. The 0-foot stake is marked by browse tag #7942. The baseline doglegs at 100 feet and runs 235 degrees magnetic.





Map Name: Woodruff Narrows

Township 10N, Range 7E, Section 13

Diagrammatic Sketch

UTM 4605849 N, 491564 E

#### DISCUSSION

#### Trend Study No. 2-32

The Wood Pass trend study is located on the east side of the Crawford Mountains approximately ½ mile south of Wood Pass. Elevation (6,800 feet) is moderately high, yet the area is still considered critical winter range. The study site lies on a gentle (10%), southeast-facing slope. The range type is an open juniper woodland with an abundant association of low-growing black sagebrush and Wyoming big sagebrush. Animal use includes cattle in spring and summer, and deer and elk in winter. Pronghorn and sage grouse use the area continuously. Deer pellet groups are the most abundant. The intensity of use is moderate to high and is most evident on juniper. Depending on the winter, snow depth could limit mid-winter utilization of the sagebrush. A pellet group transect read along the study site baseline in 2001 estimated 19 deer and 9 cow days use/acre (46 ddu/ha and 23 cdu/ha).

The NRCS classifies the study site as "Solak Gravelly Loam, Dry." This is a shallow, excessively drained soil formed residually from limestone and sandstone parent material. Total soil depth does not usually exceed 20 inches. Permeability to water is moderate, but available water capacity is low and erosion hazard is high. This soil, although occupied by Utah juniper, has a very low site productivity index or capability for producing juniper (Campbell and Lacey 1982). Soils at the site have a clay loam texture with a soil reaction that is slightly alkaline (pH of 7.4). Effective rooting depth (see methods) is variable, ranging from 10 inches to nearly 14 inches along the baseline. Average effective rooting depth is almost 10 inches. Black sagebrush will be found in the more shallow soil, while Wyoming big sagebrush occupies the deeper soil. The soil is rocky throughout the profile with a calcareous layer at about 10 to 12 inches. Phosphorus could be a limiting factor at only 4.5 ppm as values less than 10 ppm may limit normal plant growth and development. Potassium is marginal at 70.4 ppm where values less than 70 ppm could be limiting. There is some localized erosion, but it is not severe. The erosion condition class was determined as stable in 2001.

The important species include Utah juniper, Wyoming big sagebrush, and black sagebrush. Between 1984 and 1990, both Wyoming big sagebrush and black sagebrush had relatively stable populations of about 4,500 and 1,500 plants/acre respectively. Black sagebrush was classified mostly as lightly hedged, but had a high decadency rate of 65% in 1990. Wyoming big sagebrush showed light to moderate hedging and generally had good vigor. Decadency was also moderately high at 56% in 1984 and 41% in 1990. During the 1996 reading, the baseline was extended from 100 feet to 400 feet. This new and much larger sample estimated a population density for black sagebrush of 3,800 plants/acre. Due to the lack of large numbers of seedling and young plants on previous readings, this new estimate does not represent an increase in density, but a more accurate estimate of the actual black sagebrush population over the whole area. Utilization of the black sagebrush was light to moderate with good vigor. Percent decadence was moderate at 25%. Wyoming big sagebrush density declined with the new, larger sample size from 4,532 plants/acre in 1990 to 2,440 in 1996. The change in density came primarily from a reduction in the density of young and decadent plants. Some of the change may be due to the new, larger sample used in 1996. Density of mature shrubs remained similar between readings. During the 2001 reading, both populations of sagebrush remained relatively stable. Utilization continues to be light to moderate, vigor normal on most plants, and percent decadence moderately low.

The trend for juniper density appears to be increasing with each reading of the shrub plots or strips, but the sample is too small to get a good estimate of its real density. The strip counts can be used to determine trends, yet should not be considered as reliable to estimate tree density. Density strip data in 1996 indicated that 28% of the population was classified as young trees. Point-quarter data gives a much better population estimate for trees. Data from 1996 estimated 235 trees/acre with an average diameter of just over 5 inches. Canopy cover varied from 8% to 34% in 1996, with an average of 15% cover for the site. Some of the more mature trees were highlined. Point-quarter data from 2001 estimated 216 trees/acre with an average diameter of 6 inches. Canopy cover was estimated at 13%.

The herbaceous understory is diverse but not abundant. Eight perennial grasses produced less than 6% total cover in 1996 and 9% in 2001. Sandberg bluegrass is the most abundant species. Forbs are also diverse yet few occur more than occasionally. Hoods phlox is the only common species. This low growing species accounted for 74% of the forb cover in 1996 and 55% in 2001.

#### 1984 APPARENT TREND ASSESSMENT

Soil appears to be stable in spite of a few small active "rills" and some soil compaction in the immediate vicinity. Ground cover is adequate but certainly not outstanding. The sagebrush populations are half decadent with moderate utilization. Recruitment appears adequate to maintain the stand. The greatest potential change will likely concern density and canopy cover of Utah juniper.

#### 1990 TREND ASSESSMENT

Density data indicates a slight increase in juniper on this open site. The trees are highlined. Sagebrush is common on the density plots where a large number of young sagebrush were classified. The sagebrush currently display a moderately hedged growth form. Rabbits have heavily browsed the low rabbitbrush. The herbaceous understory is typically sparse, but there is a fair diversity of perennial species. Although there are deeper swales dominated by sagebrush, the majority of the site has shallow soil with moderate pavement cover and soil movement.

#### TREND ASSESSMENT

<u>soil</u> - stable but in poor condition (3)<u>browse</u> - stable (3)<u>herbaceous understory</u> - stable (3)

#### 1996 TREND ASSESSMENT

Ground cover characteristics are similar to 1990, indicating a stable soil trend. The browse trend is up for black sagebrush and Wyoming big sagebrush. Black sagebrush shows improved vigor and a decline in percent decadence from 65% to 25%. Wyoming big sagebrush is less heavily utilized, and displays improved vigor and a decline in percent decadence. Seedlings and young plants are in sufficient numbers to maintain the population. Total density has declined, but the number of mature plants is similar to 1990 estimates. Some of the change in density of black sagebrush and Wyoming big sagebrush are due to the larger sample used in 1996. Trend for the herbaceous understory is stable but deficient. Sum of nested frequency for grasses increased slightly while sum of nested frequency for forbs remained similar to 1990 estimates. Nested frequency of the dominant grass, Sandberg bluegrass, declined slightly but not significantly.

#### TREND ASSESSMENT

soil - stable (3) browse - up (5) herbaceous understory - stable (3)

#### 2001 TREND ASSESSMENT

Trend for soil is down slightly. Percent cover of bare ground has increased and the ratio of protective ground cover to bare ground has also decreased. There is some localized erosion occurring but the erosion condition class was determined to be stable. Trend for black and Wyoming big sagebrush is stable. Black sagebrush has remained at a similar density compared to 1996. Utilization is mostly light, vigor normal, and percent decadence similar (25% to 31%). Recruitment is currently poor and the population could decline slightly if drought conditions continue. Wyoming big sagebrush displays mostly light use and good vigor. Percent decadence has also declined from 30% to 21%. Recruitment is good with 16% of the population consisting of young plants. Both sagebrush species displayed minimal annual leader growth in 2001. Average annual leader growth for black sagebrush was ½ of an inch, while Wyoming big sagebrush averaged just under 1 inch. Trend for the herbaceous understory is mixed. Sum of nested frequency of perennial grasses remained similar to 1996 even though sum of nested frequency for perennial forbs increased. Since grasses provide 67% of the herbaceous cover, the overall herbaceous trend is considered stable.

#### TREND ASSESSMENT

soil - down slightly (2)

browse - stable (3)

herbaceous understory - stable (3)

#### HERBACEOUS TRENDS --

Herd unit 02, Study no: 32

T y p	Species	Nested	Freque	ncy		Quadra	ıt Frequ		Average Cover %		
e		'84	'90	'96	'01	'84	'90	'96	'01	'96	'01
G	Agropyron smithii	<sub>b</sub> 31	a <sup>-</sup>	<sub>c</sub> 88	<sub>bc</sub> 58	13	-	32	23	.97	.49
G	Agropyron spicatum	<sub>a</sub> 47	<sub>b</sub> 79	<sub>a</sub> 34	<sub>ab</sub> 64	24	38	15	27	.65	2.08
G	Bromus tectorum (a)	-	-	25	30	-	1	10	9	.10	.45
G	Oryzopsis hymenoides	<sub>a</sub> 8	<sub>a</sub> 17	<sub>b</sub> 32	<sub>ab</sub> 19	7	6	16	11	.52	.63
G	Poa fendleriana	-	-	13	10	-	-	5	5	.07	.10
G	Poa secunda	<sub>a</sub> 145	<sub>b</sub> 206	<sub>b</sub> 191	<sub>b</sub> 198	63	75	71	71	3.28	3.77
G	Sitanion hystrix	<sub>b</sub> 36	<sub>a</sub> 9	<sub>ab</sub> 26	<sub>ab</sub> 16	16	3	9	8	.11	.57
G	Stipa comata	<sub>ab</sub> 7	<sub>a</sub> 5	<sub>a</sub> 17	<sub>b</sub> 25	5	3	8	12	.21	.78
Te	otal for Annual Grasses	0	0	25	30	0	0	10	9	0.10	0.45
Te	otal for Perennial Grasses	274	316	401	390	128	125	156	157	5.84	8.43
T	otal for Grasses	274	316	426	420	128	125	166	166	5.94	8.89
F	Agoseris glauca	-	-	3	3	-	-	1	1	.00	.03
F	Alyssum alyssoides (a)	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	3	-	.01
F	Antennaria rosea	a-	<sub>a</sub> 4	$_{ab}8$	<sub>b</sub> 15	-	2	4	7	.31	.25
F	Arabis spp.	a-	a <sup>-</sup>	<sub>b</sub> 10	ab 1	-	-	5	1	.02	.00
F	Arenaria spp.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
F	Astragalus convallarius	8	-	10	7	3	-	4	4	.02	.10
F	Astragalus utahensis	<sub>b</sub> 29	<sub>ab</sub> 14	<sub>ab</sub> 21	<sub>a</sub> 14	15	8	9	8	.12	.11

T y p	Species	Nested	Freque	ncy		Quadra	ıt Frequ	ency		Average Cover %		
e		'84	'90	'96	'01	'84	'90	'96	'01	'96	'01	
F	Calochortus nuttallii	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	
F	Chaenactis douglasii	7	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	
F	Cirsium undulatum	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	.00	
F	Collomia linearis (a)	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	.03	
F	Comandra pallida	6	5	-	-	3	3	-	I	ı	-	
F	Cordylanthus ramosus (a)	-	-	15	36	-	-	10	16	.10	.18	
F	Crepis acuminata	<sub>b</sub> 11	<sub>a</sub> 2	<sub>a</sub> 3	<sub>a</sub> 1	6	2	2	1	.06	.00	
F	Cryptantha spp.	<sub>b</sub> 25	a-	ab8	<sub>c</sub> 47	10	-	4	19	.09	.58	
F	Cymopterus spp.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	.03	
F	Cynoglossum officinale	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	.00	
F	Descurainia pinnata (a)	a-	a-	$_{ab}6$	$8_{\rm d}$	-	-	2	5	.01	.03	
F	Draba spp. (a)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	.00	
F	Gilia aggregata	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	
F	Haplopappus acaulis	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
F	Lappula occidentalis (a)	-	-	3	9	-	-	1	5	.00	.02	
F	Microsteris gracilis (a)	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	.01	
F	Penstemon humilis	<sub>b</sub> 49	<sub>b</sub> 36	$_{a}3$	<sub>b</sub> 24	23	15	2	15	.01	.22	
F	Phlox hoodii	115	133	104	111	53	58	52	49	2.30	2.45	
F	Phlox longifolia	11	6	13	5	4	2	7	3	.03	.04	
F	Senecio multilobatus	<sub>b</sub> 21	a <sup>-</sup>	<sub>a</sub> 3	<sub>a</sub> 4	9	-	1	2	.00	.03	
F	Trifolium spp.	<sub>b</sub> 45	<sub>a</sub> 6	<sub>a</sub> 3	<sub>b</sub> 43	23	4	1	20	.00	.27	
T	otal for Annual Forbs	0	0	24	65	0	0	13	33	0.12	0.29	
T	otal for Perennial Forbs	337	210	189	283	157	95	92	133	3.00	4.16	
	otal for Forbs	337	210	213	348	157	95	105	166	3.12	4.45	

Values with different subscript letters are significantly different at alpha = 0.10 (annuals excluded)

#### BROWSE TRENDS --

Herd unit 02, Study no: 32

T y p	Species	Strip Freque	ncy	Average Cover %				
e		'96	'01	'96	'01			
В	Artemisia nova	55	52	6.93	7.48			
В	Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis	50	41	6.50	6.23			
В	Atriplex canescens	0	0	-	.00			
В	Chrysothamnus nauseosus consimilis	0	2	-	-			
В	Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus stenophyllus	13	11	.10	.53			
В	Eriogonum microthecum	1	2	.03	.15			
В	Juniperus osteosperma	23	20	7.63	11.09			
В	Leptodactylon pungens	0	1	-	.03			
В	Opuntia spp.	1	0	_	_			
В	Tetradymia canescens	0	1	-	-			
Т	otal for Browse	143	130	21.20	25.53			

#### CANOPY COVER --

Herd unit 02, Study no: 32

Species	Percen Cover	t
	'96	'01
Juniperus osteosperma	15	13

Point-Quarter Tree Data

Trees p	per	Averag diamet	
'96	'01	'96	'01
235	216	5.2	6.0

## BASIC COVER --

Herd unit 02, Study no: 32

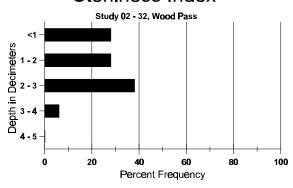
Cover Type	Nested Frequen	су	Average	Average Cover %						
	'96	'01	'84	'90	'96	'01				
Vegetation	311	309	1.75	6.00	29.52	36.61				
Rock	114	60	2.00	3.25	1.21	1.04				
Pavement	221	210	14.75	18.00	4.10	3.92				
Litter	393	376	55.50	41.00	39.92	40.78				
Cryptogams	177	63	3.00	8.75	4.83	3.94				
Bare Ground	228	273	23.00	23.00	21.77	37.10				

#### SOIL ANALYSIS DATA --

Herd Unit 02, Study no: 32, Wood Pass

Effective rooting depth (in)	Temp °F (depth)	РН	%sand	%silt	%clay	%0M	PPM P	PPM K	dS/m
9.7	60.6 (12.7)	7.4	32.9	36.7	30.4	3.3	4.5	70.4	.7

# Stoniness Index



# PELLET GROUP FREQUENCY --Herd unit 02, Study no: 32

Туре	Quadrat Frequency								
	'96	'01							
Rabbit	15	20							
Elk	2	-							
Deer	38	17							
Cattle	1	4							

Pellet 7	ransect
Pellet Groups per Acre Ø1	Days Use per Acre (ha) 01
157	N/A
-	-
244	19 (46)
113	9 (23)

## BROWSE CHARACTERISTICS --

Herd unit 02, Study no: 32

A	Y Form Class (No. of Plants)										Vigor C	lass			Plants	Average		Total
E	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	Per Acre	(inches) Ht. Cr.		
A	rtemi	isia nova	l															
S		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		i	-	-	-	0			0
	90	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	66			1
	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		0			0
Y	84	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	133			2 2 5
	90 96	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	133			2
	96 01	5 1	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	5 1	-	-	-	100 20			1
L.																0	1.6	
M	84 90	2 2	5 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 6	-	-	-	466 400	9 10	16 13	7 6
	90 96	113	21	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	138	-	-	_	2760		21	138
	01	128	_	_	-	-	_	_	_	-	128	_	_	-	2560	12	22	128
D	84	-	9	-	_	_	_	_	_	-	9	_	_	_	600			9
	90	11	4	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	2	4	1000			15
	96	27	17	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	-	-	3	940			47
	01	51	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	-	-	11	1180			59
X	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	0			0
	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	460			23
	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	580			29
%	Plar	nts Show			derate	Use		ivy Us	<u>se</u>		or Vigor	<u>.</u>				%Change	<u>e</u>	
		'84 '90		78% 39%			00% 00%				)% :0/					+22% +60%		
		90 '96		20%			00%				5% 2%					-1%		
		'01		04%			00%				5%					1/0		
To	otal I	Plants/A	ere (ex	cludin	g Dea	d & S	eedlin	gs)					'8		1199	Dec	:	50%
													'9		1533			65%
													'9 '0		3800 3760			25% 31%
													U	1	3/00			31%

A	Y R	Form C	lass (N	lo. of l	Plants	)					Vigor C	lass			Plants Per Acre	Average		Total
E		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	Pel Acie	(inches) Ht. Cr.		
A	rtem	isia tride	ntata v	vyomi	ngensi	is												
S	84	3	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	200			3
	90		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	96 01	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	100			5 0
Y		7	3							_	10			_	666			10
1	90	14	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	7	1	-	1733			26
	96	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	-	-	640			32
-	01	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	320			16
M	90	6 2	13 7	2 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	20 13	-	1 1	-	1400 933	18 18	24 20	21 14
	96	37	15	2	_	_	_	_	_	-	54	_	-	_	1080		31	54
	01	51	6	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	63	-	-	-	1260	16	28	63
D	84	3	34	2	-	-	=	-	-		29	1	9	-	2600			39
	90 96	6 17	17 19	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	19 36	1	5	3	1866 720			28 36
	01	10	4	-	7	-	-	_	_	-	13	1	-	7	420			21
X	84	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	-	0			0
	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	96 01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600 620			30 31
								_	-	-		_	-	-				21
0/		nte Show	ina	Mo	dorata	Llca	Цая	avy Ha	70	Do	or Vigor							_
%		nts Show '84		<u>Mo</u>	derate	<u>Use</u>	<u>Hea</u>	avy Us	<u>se</u>		oor Vigor	•				<u> </u>   Change  - 3%	<u>e</u>	-
%		'84 '90		71% 53%	⁄o ⁄o	<u>Use</u>	06% 15%	/o /o	<u>se</u>	14 15	% 5%	• •			- - -	%Change - 3% -46%	2	
%		'84 '90 '96		71% 53% 28%	/o /o /o	<u>Use</u>	06% 15% 02%	/o /o /o	<u>se</u>	14 15 00	%  %  %  %	•			- - -	%Change - 3%	2	
%		'84 '90		71% 53%	/o /o /o	Use Use	06% 15%	/o /o /o	<u>se</u>	14 15 00	% 5%	<u> </u>			- - -	%Change - 3% -46%	2	
	Plar	'84 '90 '96		71% 53% 28% 12%	/o /o /o /o		06% 15% 02% 00%	/o /o /o /o	<u>se</u>	14 15 00	%  %  %  %		'84		4666	%Change - 3% -46%		56%
	Plar	'84 '90 '96 '01		71% 53% 28% 12%	/o /o /o /o		06% 15% 02% 00%	/o /o /o /o	<u>se</u>	14 15 00	%  %  %  %	:	'90		4666 4532	%Change - 3% -46% -18%		56% 41%
	Plar	'84 '90 '96 '01		71% 53% 28% 12%	/o /o /o /o		06% 15% 02% 00%	/o /o /o /o	<u>se</u>	14 15 00	%  %  %  %	:			4666	%Change - 3% -46% -18%		56%
T	o Plar	'84 '90 '96 '01	cre (ex	71% 53% 28% 12%	/o /o /o /o		06% 15% 02% 00%	/o /o /o /o	<u>se</u>	14 15 00	%  %  %  %		'90 '96		4666 4532 2440	%Change - 3% -46% -18%		56% 41% 30%
To	o Plarotal I	'84 '90 '96 '01 Plants/Ad	cre (ex	71% 53% 28% 12%	/o /o /o /o		06% 15% 02% 00%	/o /o /o /o	<u>se</u>	14 15 00	%  %  %  %	-	'90 '96		4666 4532 2440	%Change - 3% -46% -18%		56% 41% 30%
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